



Midweek Meditation



"I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think." Romans 12:3

It is the worst kind of vice and the most demonic kind of pride for us to commend ourselves and pat ourselves on the back if we see or feel some special gift in ourselves... God did not give you your gifts for you to tickle yourself with them, but for you to help your neighbor with them when he needs it, and thus by your strength to bear his weakness, by your piety and honor to cover up his sin and to conceal his shame, as God through Christ has done for you and still does every day.

Martin Luther

The only one who has the right to commend himself and pat himself on the back is Jesus. But He did nothing of the kind. He did not glorify Himself. He was not about Himself. Jesus' entire purpose and mission was to benefit us. He performed no miracle for Himself. He put our needs always ahead of His own. Jesus offered His back to the whip for us who like to pat our own backs. Jesus embraced the thorns and the nails for us who have all too often embraced ourselves. We who have raised ourselves up in life can thank our God who raised up His Son on a cross for us and for our forgiveness.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood. Amen.